GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3968
ANSWERED ON:06.08.2014
CONNECTIVITY AND INFRASTRUCTURES
Rai Shri Prem Das

Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated/implemented schemes/ programmes to improve connectivity and infrastructure in the North-Eastern States;

(b) if so, the details thereof, including the details of funds allocated/spent during the last three years and the current year, State-wise and scheme-wise; and

(c) the progress and achievement made in term of connectivity of remote far flung areas in various States with the district Headquarters and each State's capital city?

Answer

The Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region [General V.K. Singh (Retd.)]

(a)to (c):I. Road Connectivity:

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has formulated the Special Accelerated Road Development Programme for North-East (SARDP-NE), for upgradation of 10141 km road stretches of National Highways and State Roads in the year 2005-06. Out of 10141 km of roads included under SARDP-NE, 6418 km has been approved by the Government for implementation under Phase 'A' and the Arunachal Pradesh Package of Roads and Highways and balance 3723 kms. has been approved only for preparation of DPR under Phase 'B' of SARDP-NE. Targets and Allocation are not fixed State-wise. However, the length sanctioned and achievement year wise during the last three years and the current year is as under:

(All figures in km.)

Year	Length sanctioned	Length completed
2011-12	983	150
2012-13	69	260
2013-14	64	363
2014-15	70	
78	(up to June, 2014)	

Details of funds allocated year-wise along with expenditure are as follow:-

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Allocation	Expenditure
2011-12	1950	1940
2012-13	1845	1844
2013-14	3007.83	3007.83
2014-15	3000	453.67
(up to June, 2014)		

Projects are targeted for completion by March, 2017 for Phase 'A' and March, 2018 for Arunachal Pradesh Package. With regard to connectivity with the district headquarters the works are under different stages like Detailed Project Report, tender and implementation/completion. The status of connectivity with state Capitals is given hereunder:-

Sl. No.	State Capital	Status
1	Itanagar	4-lane connectivity to Itanagar with East West corridor at Nagaon has been approved by the Government under SARDP-NE. It comprises of six packages for which alignments have already approved. One project of the Brahmaputra Bridge is under bidding and balance five packages, have been approved by the High Power Committee (HPC) on 16.07.2014.
2	Guwahati	Already connected by 4-lane highway through East West (EW) corridor.

3	Shillong	The proposal for 4-laning of NH-40 from Jorabat to Barapani on BOT (Annuity) basis and improvement of existing 2-lane Barapani to Shillong section of NH-40 on EPC basis was included under Phase 'A' of SARDP-NE. The present progress of Jorabat to Barapani is 66.30 % and 41.8 km of length has been completed. The project is likely to be completed by Jan. 2015 except Umsing by-pass, for which the land is yet to be handed over by the State Government of Meghalaya and the portion from Barapani to Shillong has been taken as two lane with paved shoulder by-pass to Shillong city under SARDP-NE Phase 'A'.
4	Kohima & Imphal	4-laning of NH-39 from Dimapur to Kohima is included as part of Special Accelerated Road Development Programme for North East (SARDP-NE) Phase 'A'. This project is under bidding.
5	Aizawl	The work is in progress for 2 laning connectivity to Aizawl
6	Agartala	To connect Agartala with East West corridor, Silchar-Churaibari-Agartala section is being developed as two lanes under National Highway (Original) /SARDP-NE.
7	Gangtok	There is no proposal to upgrade NH-31A connecting Gangtok to 4 lane standards. However, an alternate 2 lane Highway (in addition to NH 31A) has been approved by the Government.

II. Rail Connectivity:

Presently, 12 new line projects, 4 gauge conversion projects and 2 Doubling projects i.e. total 18 projects have been taken up in NE region, which are at different stages of progress. Outlay of Rs.2079 crores, Rs.2279 crores and Rs.3392 crores have been provided during 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14 respectively for the projects in North East Region. Outlay for the current year (2014-15) is Rs.5200 crores which is about 50% higher than the last year (2013-14).

The capitals of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and Tripura are already connected with railway network. Projects to provide connectivity to capitals of remaining states except Sikkim have been taken up as under and are progressing as per availability of funds.

Sl. No.	State	Remarks
1	Manipur (Imphal)	New line from Jiribam – Imphal, sanctioned in 2003-04, will provide connectivity to Imphal.
2	Nagaland (Kohima)	New line from Dimapur – Kohima, sanctioned in 2006-07, will provide connectivity to Kohima
3	Mizoram (Aizawl)	New line from Bhairabhi – Sairang, sanctioned in 2008-09, will provide connectivity to Aizawl.
4	Meghalaya (Shillong)	New line from Tetaliya – Byrnihat sanctioned in 2006-07 & Byrnihat – Shillong, sanctioned in 2010, will provide connectivity to Shillong

Sivok-Rangpo new line has been taken up to provide connectivity to Sikkim but the proposal to extend this line upto Gangtok has not been taken up. There is no proposal to connect all District Headquarters in various states.

III. Air Connectivity:

In NER, there are total of 24 airports (12 operational and 12 non-operational) including Bagdogra in West Bengal. Out of the operational airports, seven airports (Agartala, Dimapur, Dibrugarh, Guwahati, Imphal, Lilabari & Shillong) are with Airport Authority of India (AAI) and four are Indian Air Force (IAF) airports (Bagdogra, Jorhat, Silchar & Tezpur) where AAI have civil enclaves. Airport at Lengpui (Mizoram) belongs to the State Govt. Out of the twelve operational airports the Guwahati and Imphal airports are international airports while all other airports are domestic airports.

For improving air connectivity in North East Region, AAI had taken up a number of infrastructure development works at various airports in the past decade and a number of development works are contemplated for coming years. The objective is to make Guwahati as Inter-Regional Hub and Agartala, Dibrugarh and Imphal as Intra-Regional Hubs. For this, construction of maintenance hangars, extension & strengthening of runway, extension & strengthening of Apron, construction of new terminal buildings/extension & modification of existing terminal buildings, etc. are planned in these airports. In addition to the above, development works are also planned for other airports like extension of runway suitable for A-321 type of aircrafts at Shillong, new terminal buildings at Silchar & Jorhat etc.

IV. Inland Waterways:

Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) has a mandate to develop National Waterways including National Waterway-2 (River Brahmaputra) from Bangladesh Border (near Dhubri) to Sadiya for the purpose of inland water transport and Development of Barak River from Lakhipur to Bhanga (121 km) as a National Waterway at an estimated cost of Rs.141 crore at 2014 price.